

## **Cornerstone Assistance Network**

Cornerstone Assistance Network is a comprehensive faith-based ministry encompassing six divisions. The mission statement, *Uniting with others in Christian Love to meet the needs of people*, is based on the words of Matthew 25:31-46:

For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you invited Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me, Truly I say, Unto the least of these, you did also unto Me.

Cornerstone's commitment is to help those who are hungry, hurting and homeless, either directly or through a local congregation or organization.

The six divisions are:

### **Cornerstone Community Center**

This community center ministers to the whole community where 95% of the children are on the free lunch program at their local school. Located next door to the elementary school, the Center provides before and after school programs, as well as tutoring for children, ESL classes and GED classes.

There is a computer lab for children and adults as well as a Free Medical Clinic. Eight area Doctors volunteer their time on a rotating basis. Food, clothing and school supplies are also available as the need arises. The Christian Women's Job Corp is a valuable resource to women in various stages of need; job training, resume writing and a hands-on approach to sustaining successful employment. Their goal is changing lives, one life at a time.

### **Cornerstone Resource Network**

Cornerstone warehouses offer home furnishings, furniture, appliances, clothing, hygiene products, bedding, paper goods, as well as food. We work in partnership with 75 local churches as well as other non-profit organizations. This Resource Network is designed to "fill the gap" left by the loss of jobs, homes and family support.

### **Cornerstone Housing**

The housing division consists of The New Life Center for 18 homeless men, The Dwelling Place for 8 women coming out of prison, and 30 housing vouchers for homeless families:

- **The New Life Center**

This is an 18-bedroom facility designated for single homeless men. All of the tenants must have a job and pay rent, follow rules and regulations. They are encouraged to become self-supporting again. They receive mentoring in financial, career and spiritual matters.

- **The Dwelling Place**

This is an 8-bedroom facility that is called home to women coming out of prison. This is a place where they can spend time making the transition back into society. Cornerstone provides job training and job placement as they go about putting their plan into action. This is a place where they can receive visits from the children they have been away from and begin a bridge to reconciliation.

- **Tenant Based rental assistance**

Thirty fair market rental assistance vouchers for homeless families to be used anywhere in Tarrant County. This allows families to move back into stable communities instead of “congregated areas of poverty.”

### **Cornerstone Network Development**

This Resource Network provides training for churches and non-profit organizations as well as being a window into the community. This department seeks to unite the local churches in their efforts to reach out into the community and meet needs. It also raises resources for all to use.

### **Cornerstone Comprehensive Care**

The Tarrant County 2000 Census reports that, “on any given night, there are 3,781 homeless people” this includes 2,189 men, 936 women and 656 children. The primary reason for homelessness, as reported by the homeless people surveyed, is related to unemployment (24%) or underemployment (20%) and family violence (12%).

Substance abuse, mental illness and change in family status were also listed as primary reasons for homelessness. The working poor are a part of our society that we recognize as being unable to earn “a living wage”. They do not have the education and or training to earn enough to be fully self-supporting.

Cornerstone is continuously seeking new and better avenues to implement life-changing plans. Case managers assess the needs of clients and formulate a service plan to address those needs. This agency (3CP) has become the lead agency in utilizing a shared client database with Churches and social service providers throughout the country. 3CP provides a valuable source for planners & policymakers who are in need of information on client demographics, current countywide statistics, or social program effectiveness.

The program is unique because it works with other social service agencies assuring the homeless have every opportunity available to become self-sufficient. Case managers provide outreach services to the following locations: Presbyterian Night Shelter, Union gospel Mission, Salvation Army, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Broadway Baptist Church, Cornerstone Dwelling Place, Women’s Second Chance and the New Life Center.

### **Cornerstone Intermediary Services**

#### **The Fort Worth Initiative**

This program provides training and consulting services to other organizations that are interested in developing capacity within their ministry or agency. The working premise

of this division is to help the organization determine the best use of their time in order to maximize the desired outcomes delivered to the people they are serving. This initiative is based on the premise that non-profit organizations spend a tremendous amount of time managing blended funded streams and do so without the proper processes or skills.

It is the intent of the funders of this initiative to determine if an investment in the capacities of these organizations will create better program outcomes. Cornerstone will be investing in the capacity of five local non-profits over the next 3 years in order to evaluate their progress. Most of these organizations will, potentially, be receiving over \$150,000 during the three-year initiative.

In every division in Cornerstone, local congregations are vital to the success of the people involved in the programs. It is our desire to allow local congregations the staff, knowledge and resources necessary for them to do the work they have been called to do within their local community.

Cornerstone Assistance Network is a member of The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. We are very aware of the need for non-profits to keep the trust and respect of the public that supports us. We are committed to love and help those in need to become all that God intended for them so they may also show love to others.